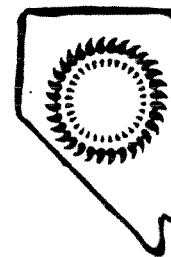


# NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY



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### SYNOPSIS

March was wetter than normal over all but a small portion of the Northeast and Eastern and Southern Nevada. Extremes were from almost 4 times normal at Hawthorne (1.72"), and 2 times normal at Yerington, to no precipitation at Boulder City, Overton, Bunkerville, and Desert Rock.

March temperatures were near normal except 2 to 4 degrees above in portions of the South, where the 1995-96 winter season was one of the warmest and driest on record.

Water Year precipitation (Oct. 1, 1995 - March 31, 1996) is above normal in the Northern half of the State, but below elsewhere. Percentage of normal precipitation ranges from 1 & 1/2 times normal in portions of the Northeast and most of the Northwest to less than 1/4 of normal in much of the extreme South. East Slope Sierra Nevada Watersheds range from 115 - 145% of normal, while in the South Las Vegas and Overton have had less than 20% of the normal precipitation for this time of year. However, all is not lost in the South, as Upper Colorado River areas that flow into Lake Mead, the major water supply, are about 1 & 1/4 times normal.

Although not as wet as the 1994-95 season this is the second wet year in a row for much of Nevada's Northern half.

### TEMPERATURE

March concluded another relatively mild winter season for most of the Silver State, with temperatures averaging near or a little above normal. For example, Reno, Winnemucca, and Elko were all within 1 degree of normal, while Las Vegas averaged 3 & 1/2 degrees above normal.

The coldest reported temperature was -15° at Wildhorse Reservoir, with -10's at Mountain City and Charleston. The State record was -33° at Diamond Valley near Eureka in 1969. On the warm side the Moapa Valley and lower Colorado River rose into the low 90's. The State record is 101° at Rioville in 1903 (now covered by Lake Mead).

## PRECIPITATION

With above normal precipitation in the Northern half of the State and well below normal in the South there was great contrast in March. For example, in the Tahoe Basin Daggett Pass had 4.66", Upper Incline 4.00" and 49" of snow with 2.90" falling in Incline. Just over the border Kings Beach, Ca. had 5.60" and 56" of snowfall. Other very wet Northern locations were Verdi 3.83", Jarbidge 2.87", and 32" of snowfall, 2.66" and 31" at Jarbidge 7 North, 2.74" at Lages, and 2.49" at the McCoy Mine South of Battle Mountain, with 1.62" of that on the 27th. Dale Firebaugh had 2.15" at Dayton, with 2.40" at Virginia City Fire Department, and 2.44" at Carson City Fire Department.

## SUNSHINE, WIND & EVAPORATION

Sunshine hours were below normal in the wet North but above normal in the dry South where Las Vegas had 91% of the possible hours.

Wind and evaporation were below normal in the North, with more evaporation than usual in the South.

NOTE: What can be expected for Spring 1996? State Climate Archives show great differences in April - May weather. For example in 1943, "severe frosts in April, May and June caused great damage to frost and vegetable crops with considerable replanting necessary. Many lambs and shorn sheep were lost." Late April weather in 1963 brought below zero readings to the Northeast with -12° at Ruth. The same was true for May with -7° at Pine Valley in 1990. In contrast April 1989 was very warm with 106 at Laughlin and Cottonwood Cove, while during Memorial Day Weekend 1983 many locations went over the 100° mark, with 116° at Cottonwood Cove.

NOTE 2: Would all observers please make sure you are using the 32¢ envelopes. The Post Office will no longer bill us for the difference. Thanks.

John W. James  
State Climatologist

Percentage of Normal  
Precipitation  
Oct. 1, 1995 - March 31, 1996  
Water Year

# NEVADA CLIMATE STATIONS

